

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING
October 22, 2015
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center
7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917

MINUTES

Call to Order: Commissioner Michael Sheehan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Introduction of New State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC) Member:

Commissioner Sheehan welcomed new member, Dave Caudle, AAA Region 5 to the SAC and asked him to introduce himself.

Roll Call: Gloria Lanum called the roll and a quorum was present.

Present: Commissioner Michael Sheehan, Chairperson, John Murphy, Vice-Chairperson, Regina Allen, Nellie Blue, Alan Bond, Kellie Boyd, Vicente Castellanos, Dave Caudle, Chuck Corwin, Georgia Durga, Kathleen Earle, Sandra Falk-Michaels, Thomas Hartwig, Elizabeth Ireland-Curtis, Mary Jones, Victoria Laupp, Nicolette McClure, Gerald McCole, Perry Ohren, Roy Pentilla, Angie Perone, Jean Peters, Gene Pisha, Mary Lou Proefrock, Donald Ryan, Mona Sashital, Gary Scholten, Linda Strohl, Terry Vear, Susan Vick, Wendy White, Kathleen Williams-Newell, Ginny Wood-Broderick, John Zimmerman, and Ex-Officio Member: Elizabeth Thompson

Excused: Lois Hitchcock, Kathleen Johnston-Calati, Barbara Leo, Pamela McKenna, Patricia Rencher and Ex-Officio Member: Robyn Ford

Guests: Commissioner Dona Wishart, Eric Grider, and Cosette Seals

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Staff present: Kari Sederburg, Gloria Lanum, Leslie Shanlian, Lauren Swanson-Aprill, Scott Wamsley, and AASA Student Intern Victoria Adkins

Agenda: The State Advisory Council (SAC) approved the agenda as presented.

Minutes: The SAC approved the June 18, 2015, minutes.

Introduction of Guest Commissioner: Commissioner Sheehan introduced and welcomed Commissioner Dona Wishart.

Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) Director's Report: Kari Sederburg Report: Kari:

- Thanked SAC member Gerry McCole for his support in helping to advertise the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) October 16, 2015, meeting and hearing held in Escanaba. The meeting and hearing were well attended. During the meeting, the CSA approved the designation of Escanaba as a Community for a Lifetime. That brings us to a total of 24 recognized communities.
- Introduced Victoria Adkins, an AASA student intern from The University of Michigan School of Social Work. Victoria will be with AASA through May 2016.

- Shared that Leslie Shanlian, the current AASA Deputy Director, has taken a new position as the CEO of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency's Health System. Leslie will be overseeing the policies and procedures that govern the day-to-day operations at both the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. Leslie begins her new position on October 26, 2015. Kari thanked Leslie for her great work while she was here.
- Explained that the AASA deputy director (officially called the state bureau administrator) position has been posted.

FY 2017 Budget: The fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget discussions are just beginning. With the road funding issue stalled, the likelihood of increased funding is slim, but we are still going to make some recommendations for increased funding for aging-related programs. The current House-passed road proposal includes:

- Increasing vehicle registrations by 40% and taking \$600 million from the State's general fund for fixing the roads phased in beginning in 2019.
- Increasing the tax on diesel fuel from by 7.3 cents and on regular gas by 3.3 cents to begin in 2018.
- Tying the gas tax to inflation, starting on Oct. 1, 2022.
- Creating a new surcharge for electric-powered vehicles.
- Expanding the number of people and the amount that can be claimed under the Homestead property tax credit to help lower-income Michiganders
- Rolling back the state income tax, when state revenues exceed inflation, beginning in 2022.

The plan faces a challenge in the Senate and with Gov. Rick Snyder who wanted no more than \$400 million from the general fund to go to roads.

Kari will continue to monitor the FY 17 budget process as aging programs including Medicaid and in-home services are a priority of the governor especially since there are still waiting lists. The governor and his team are begging to work on their recommendations that will be presented this spring to the Legislature. Kari is also paying attention to the issue of direct care worker reimbursement rates and the governor is interested in supporting caregivers of people with dementia.

Legislative Hearing on Metrics: Kari had the privilege of testifying in front of the full Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. The committee is taking a look at the previous fiscal year funding increases and trying to hear about any/all results that may have occurred now that the fiscal year has ended. Kari and Scott Wamsley presented on the "No Wait State" increase providing overview of the programs (home delivered meals and community-based services) and data up to the third quarter of 2015. They plan to continue sharing information about the great work our network has done over the past fiscal year.

LEAN Process: AASA has been leading several departments and agencies that provide long-term care and community-based supports and services through a process looking at their systems and processes to identify inefficiencies. A BOLD Council was formed with representatives from key departments/agencies that are now value stream mapping the Medicaid MI Choice Waiver, Home Help Provider Programs, etc. and interviewed local staff for their input about the system, which resulted in over 600 recommendations to improve. The BOLD Council is currently looking at 267 possible policies and will be first looking at those that need to be changed that will have a high impact with low effort to implement.

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Update: The MDHHS leadership is currently looking at the department's resources regarding IT, the web, etc. as there are over 14,000 employees and the MDHSS budget is one half of the state's total budget. Policy updates will be forthcoming.

AASA Online Newsletter: AASA is sending a monthly newsletter to the aging network. The update will go out the first Friday of each month and can feature anything the network needs to know. The SAC is welcome to submit articles/information to be included in the newsletter to Phil Lewis or Lauren Swanson-Aprill.

Old Business

Commission Report: Commissioner Dona Wishart introduced herself, explained that she is from Gaylord, Michigan, and shared that she is delighted to attend the SAC meeting as the SAC serves an important role in advising the Commission on current aging issues. The SAC, CSA and AASA are a "trifecta" with teams within one team working to making a difference for Michigan's older adults. Commissioner Wishart serves as the executive director of the Otsego County Commission on Aging and has worked there for 23 years. In August, she returned to the CSA as the new chairperson upon appointment by Governor Rick Snyder, having served on the CSA previously during the Engler and Granholm administrations.

Commissioner Wishart provided a brief report about the CSA's recent meetings' outcomes. The CSA's August and September meetings focused on reviewing and approving the AAAs' Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs) for FY 2016. On October 16, 2015, the CSA members were delighted to be in Escanaba for their regular business meeting and a public hearing held at the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, UPCAP Services, Inc. They were welcomed by the Region 11 AAA aging network including SAC member Gerald McCole. The CSA approved the designation of Escanaba as a Community for a Lifetime.

Regarding the SAC charge to study direct care workforce issues Commissioner Wishart emphasized the importance of the direct care workers (DCWs) who support older adults in their everyday lives. They are often undervalued by the general public and often also underpaid. Some home care agencies in the Gaylord area are unable to meet the demand for DCWs due to a shortage. Commissioner Wishart commended the SAC for taking on this important charge to support growing Michigan's direct care workforce.

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The next CSA meeting will be held Friday, November 20, 2015, 9:00 a.m. at the Aging and Adult Services Agency Office.

SAC Adjunct Report Follow-up: Lauren shared the importance of continuing to promote positive aging and that SAC members can continue work on this with AASA as the AASA 2014-2016 state plan has been extended for one more year. She reviewed and passed around information SAC member Mary Lou Proefrock, Region 8, provided about promoting and supporting positive results of older adults and their direct care workers through newspaper articles and annual reports as positive aging examples.

Lauren also reported that she connected with the new AAA 1B representative to the Southeast Michigan Senior Regional Collaborative Advocacy Committee (SRC), Jim McGuire to keep the SAC in mind when they work on the: I AM SENIOR STRONG CAMPAIGN. Jim shared a flyer of information from Region 1B AAA that highlights the economic benefits that older adults bring to their Southeast Michigan community. Lauren will send a copy of the flyer to all SAC members.

New Business

Change in Mileage Reimbursement Rates: The state mileage reimbursement rate was reduced from \$.39 per mile to \$.36 per mile due to reduced gas prices. Gloria Lanum has recalculated all SAC members' reimbursement forms to reflect this change. Please let Gloria know if there are any questions.

SAC 2016 Meeting Dates: All SAC meetings are held at the Ramada Hotel & Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

Thursday, March 17, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Regular SAC Meeting

Friday, April 15, 2016—Joint CSA/SAC Meeting, Time TBD

Thursday, June 16, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Regular SAC Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Regular SAC Meeting

Workgroups' Scribes: Lauren asked the four SAC Workgroups to choose a scribe during the break to take notes on flipcharts during the upcoming Workgroups' presentations.

Direct Care Workforce Workgroup Reports: Chairperson, Commissioner Sheehan provided the following remarks about the CSA charge to the SAC to study direct care workforce issues.

"Several new members joined us this year, and I haven't put things in context for the group for a while, so bear with me while I do a quick overview. This group is the State Think Tank for senior issues. Every year or two, the Commission on Services to the Aging asks us to research a specific senior issue of their choosing and to come up with a report that makes observations and suggestions."

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That report goes to the Governor and to the Legislature. We don't have a mandate to raise taxes, and we don't have a mandate to make laws, but we can point to needs and suggest solutions and propose directions for new laws. Our job is to motivate and energize and inspire those who can raise money and enact laws.

Our report also goes online so that it can have a grassroots effect of the 16 Area Agencies on Aging, the 83 Commissions on Aging, and the hundreds of senior centers throughout the State, as well as countless other senior service providers.

Unlike in years past, you are actually writing a portion of the report along with your group. The four drafts will be given to Lauren Swanson-Aprill as the lead for the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA). She and others in AASA will edit as needed, especially in integrating the four parts into one seamless document. Drafts will be passed back and forth between Lauren and you as time allows. As a writer and retired English Professor, I will spend time doing grammatical, punctuation, and word choice editing, but I won't touch the substance.

Right now, each group needs to start reducing its section to the 2 or 3 most important and salient points. It is a principle of academic thesis writing and of formal report writing such as this, that the writers always know more than they include. There are always chunks of material left over. It is not wasted, because it will influence the choice of major issues and show up in a latent way.

As you listen to the summaries about to be given, try to gain a feeling for what is most needed, most useful, most inspiring to those in elected office. Start zeroing in on the most critical issues. You must make a difference in the lives of the senior citizens of Michigan."

Following the four workgroup chairs listed below provided an update about their research to date:

Marketing Direct Care Workers	Wendy White
Interdisciplinary Team Model	Ginny Wood-Broderick and Terry Vear
Transportation and Child/Family Care Models	Angie Perone and John Murphy
Training Operations	Kathleen Earle

Workgroup meetings: The four workgroups met in the afternoon and continued to discuss their findings and top issues.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2016, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,
Ramada Lansing Hotel and Conference Center**

Commissioner Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.